

REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

26. (Amended) A device for handling pressurized gas, said device comprising:
a housing having an inlet, an outlet, and a flow path from said inlet to said outlet;
first and second valves located within said housing; and
an actuator arranged to initially open said first valve for flowing gas in a first direction at a first flow rate through a pressurization orifice, and to subsequently open said second valve for flowing gas in an axial direction at a second flow rate through said device, said second flow rate being greater than said first flow rate, said axial direction being the same as said first direction.

34. (Amended) A surge prevention dual-path valve for pressurized oxygen comprising:

a housing having an inlet connected to a surge of high pressure oxygen, an outlet, and a flow path from said inlet to said outlet;

a first valve located within said housing, said first valve comprising an upper seat in communication with an upper portion of a pressurization orifice;

a second valve located within said housing, said second valve comprising a lower seat in communication with a lower portion of said pressurization orifice; and

a piston unit arranged to initially move said upper seat in a first direction to open said pressurization orifice, and to subsequently move said lower seat in an axial direction to open said flow path, said axial direction being the same as said first direction.

39. (Amended) A method of operating a surge prevention dual-path valve, said method comprising the steps of:

moving at least a portion of a piston unit in an axial direction for about 0.25 to about 1.5 seconds to cause gas to flow through a pressurization orifice of a first valve at a first flow rate; and

subsequently moving said piston unit in said axial direction to cause gas to flow through a second valve at a second flow rate, said second flow rate being greater than said first flow rate.

44. (Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein an operator removes his or her hand from a rotatable valve handle connected to said piston unit and re-grips said handle after said gas flows through said first valve and before said gas flows through said second valve.

47. (Amended) A method of operating a surge prevention dual-path valve, said method comprising the steps of:

moving at least a portion of a piston unit in an axial direction to cause oxygen to flow through a pressurization orifice of a first valve at a first flow rate;

subsequently moving said piston unit in said axial direction to cause oxygen to flow through a second valve at a second flow rate, said second flow rate being greater than said first flow rate; and

causing oxygen to flow through said dual-path valve at said second flow rate, through a pressure regulator and then to an operative device.

49. (Amended) A method of operating a surge prevention dual-path valve, said method comprising the steps of:

Sub 1/1 moving at least a portion of a piston unit in an axial direction to cause nitrous oxide to flow through a pressurization orifice of a first valve at a first flow rate;

and subsequently moving said piston unit in said axial direction to cause nitrous oxide to flow through a second valve at a second flow rate, said second flow rate being greater than said first flow rate; and

and causing nitrous oxide to flow through said dual-path valve at said second flow rate, through a pressure regulator and then to an operative device.
